

CLAIMS

1. A method of determining the presence of anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies capable of degrading Factor VIII in a mammal, characterised in
5 that it comprises :
- i) isolating the plasma from a sample of blood taken from said mammal,
 - 10 ii) isolating anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies from said plasma ;
 - iii) placing said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies in contact with Factor VIII for a period of time sufficient to permit any degradation of said Factor VIII by said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies ; and
 - 15 iv) determining, after said period of time, whether said Factor VIII has effectively been degraded by said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies.
2. The method according to claim 1, characterised in that in step
20 ii), said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies are isolated from said plasma by combining them with said Factor VIII, said Factor VIII being preferably coupled to a matrix.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that in
25 step ii), said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies are isolated by affinity chromatography.
4. The method according to claim 3, characterised in that step ii),
said affinity chromatography comprises the use of Factor VIII covalently
30 coupled to a Sepharose matrix, preferably activated with cyanogen bromide.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that in step iii), said Factor VIII is labelled with a labelling agent, preferably a radio-labelling agent, such as ^{125}I in particular.

5 6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that in step iii), said Factor VIII is placed in contact with the anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies for a period of time of between about 0.5 and about 30 hours, preferably about 10 hours, at a temperature of about 15 to about 40°C, preferably 38°C.

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7. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that step iv) is carried out by a determination comprising a separation technique, such as gel electrophoresis, such as SDS PAGE in particular, or gel filtration, such as fast protein liquid chromatography gel filtration in particular, and a visualisation technique, such as autoradiography in particular.

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8. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that it further comprises :

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v) characterising the site(s) in said Factor VIII molecule cleaved by said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies.

9. The method according to claim 8, characterised in that said characterisation is carried out by placing said Factor VIII in contact with said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies capable of degrading Factor VIII, separating and then sequencing the fragments of Factor VIII resulting therefrom.

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10. The method according to claim 8 or 9, characterised in that said separation is carried out using a technique such as gel electrophoresis, such as SDS PAGE in particular.

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18. The inhibitor according to claim 17, characterised in that it comprises a protease inhibitor, such as 4-(2-aminoethyl)benzenesulphonyl fluoride hydrochloride in particular.

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19. The inhibitor according to claim 17 or 18, characterised in that said inhibitor inhibits cleavage of the scissile bonds : Arg³⁷²-Ser³⁷³, located between the A1 domains, Tyr¹⁶⁸⁰-Asp¹⁶⁸¹, located on the N-terminus of the A3 domain, and Glu¹⁷⁹⁴-Asp¹⁷⁹⁵ located within the A3 domain of the Factor

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VIII molecule.

20. The inhibitor according to any one of claims 17 to 19, characterised in that it comprises a peptide or non-peptide analogue of the amino acid sequence :

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Ser Val Ala Lys Lys His Pro .

21. The inhibitor according to any one of claims 17 to 19, characterised in that it comprises a peptide or non-peptide analogue of the amino acid sequence :

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Asp Glu Asp Glu Asn Gln Ser .

22. The inhibitor according to any one of claims 17 to 19, characterised in that it comprises a peptide or non-peptide analogue of the amino acid sequence :

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Asp Gln Arg Gln Gly Ala Glu .

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23. A pharmaceutical composition characterised in that it comprises a pharmaceutically effective amount of an anti-Factor VIII allo-

antibody capable of degrading Factor VIII, notably as obtainable from the method of any one of claims 1 to 6.

24. Use of anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies capable of degrading
5 Factor VIII for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a mammal suffering from a pathology resulting from abnormal level of Factor VIII in the blood thereof.

25. Use according to claim 24, characterised in that said pathology
10 results from the presence of an excess of Factor VIII in the blood thereof.

26. A pharmaceutical composition characterised in that it comprises a pharmaceutically effective amount of a Factor VIII degradation inhibitor according to any one of claims 17 to 22.

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27. Use of a Factor VIII degradation inhibitor for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, in particular for the treatment of a mammal suffering from a pathology resulting from the sub-physiological level of Factor VIII in the blood thereof.

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(54) Title: CATALYTIC ANTI-FACTOR VIII ALLO-ANTIBODIES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method of determining the presence of catalytic anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies capable of degrading Factor VIII in a mammal, and of characterising the cleavage sites in said Factor VIII molecule by said catalytic anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies. It also relates to an anti-Factor VIII allo-antibody-catalysed Factor VIII degradation inhibitor; and to a pharmaceutical composition comprising said catalytic anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies which are capable of degrading Factor VIII and which originate from said method of determination; and further to a pharmaceutical composition comprising said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibody-catalysed Factor VIII degradation inhibitor. Finally, the present invention relates to the application in therapeutics of said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibody-catalysed Factor VIII degradation inhibitor, of a pharmaceutical composition comprising said catalytic anti-Factor VIII allo-antibodies which are capable of degrading Factor VIII and which originate from said method of determination, and of a pharmaceutical composition comprising said anti-Factor VIII allo-antibody-catalysed Factor VIII degradation inhibitor.

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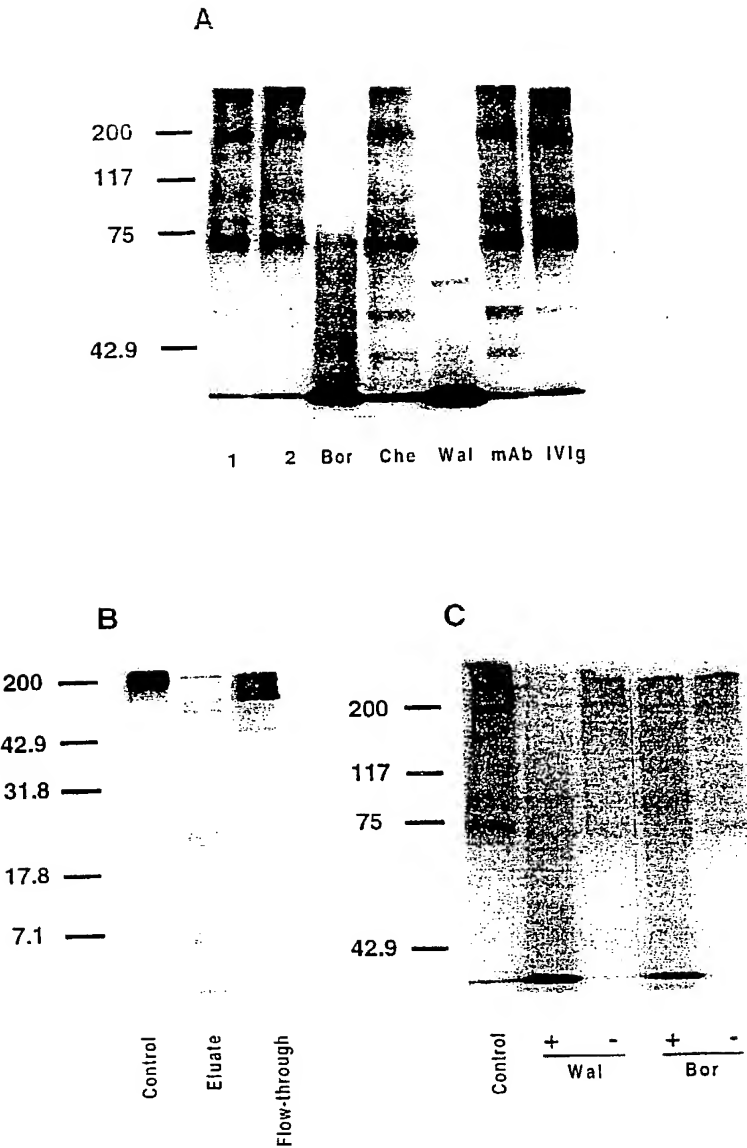


FIG.1

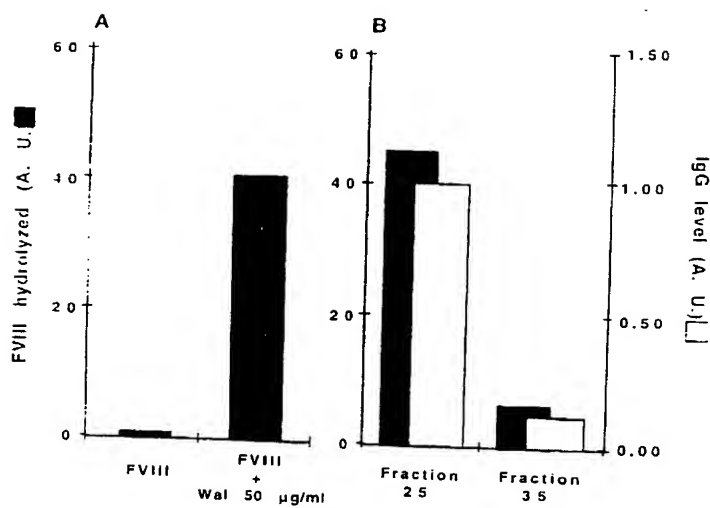


FIG. 2

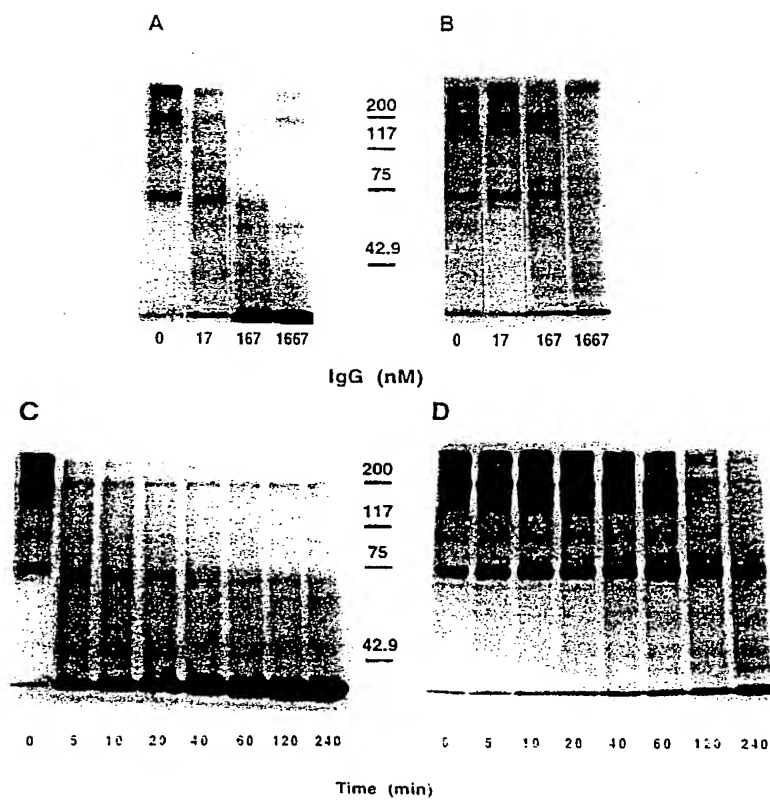
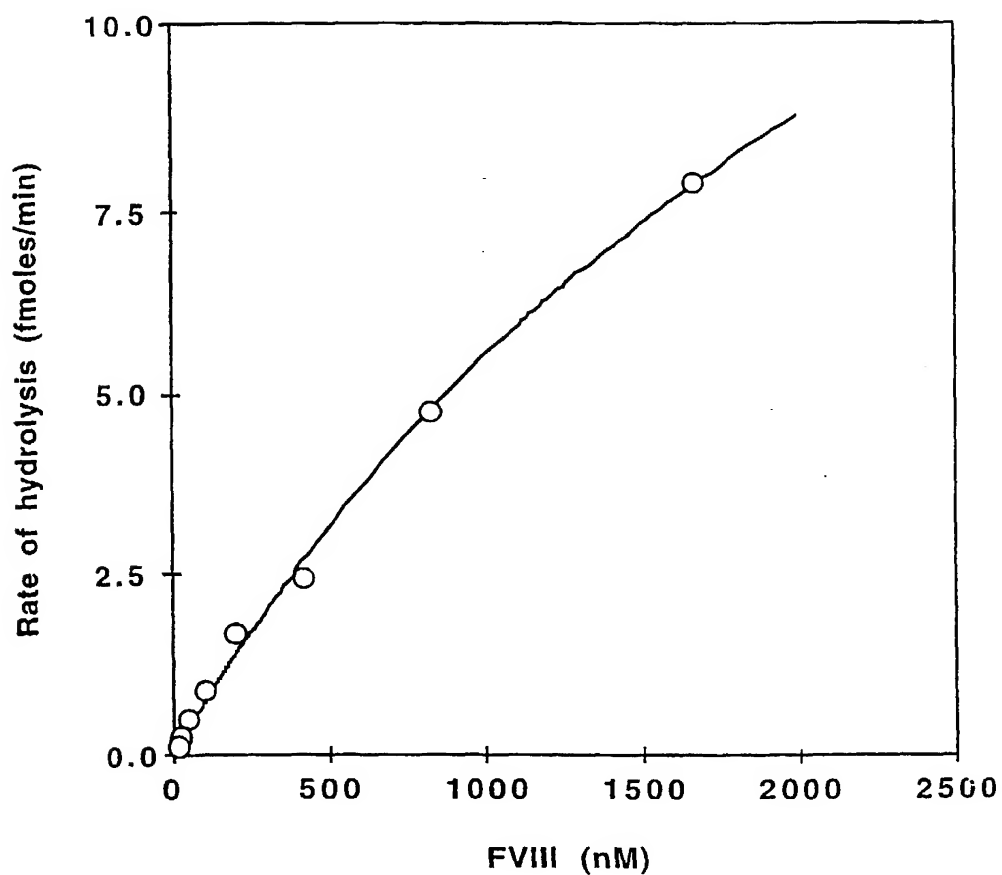


FIG. 3



K_m (μM)	9.46 ± 5.62
V_{Max} (fmoles/min)	85.1 ± 60.1
Catalytic constant (min^{-1})	0.026 ± 0.018
Catalytic efficiency ($M \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$)	2553 ± 533

FIG. 4

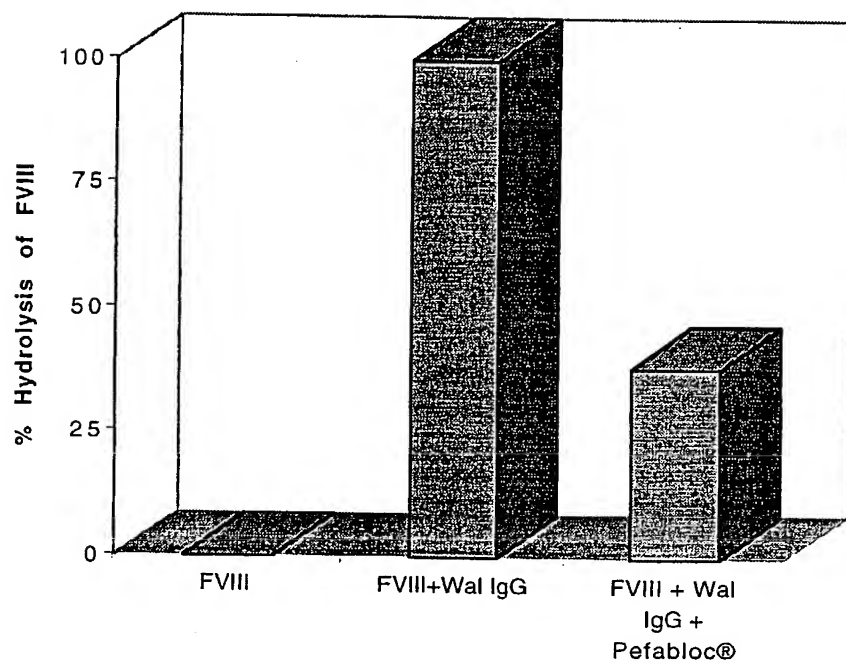


FIG. 5